

THE  
**Federated Church**  
OF SYCAMORE



Figuring out faith  
with Peter

LENT 2024

# ***YOU* ARE WELCOME HERE!**

## **A warm WELCOME to those visiting or checking out Federated Church!**

We're glad you're here! Are you looking for more information about who we are, what we do, or how to get involved? Would you like to meet with Pastor Eric or get connected to others? Fill out our brief online [Connection Form here](#), and we will be in touch with you soon!

## **Federated Church is an Open & Affirming Community**

In a time of deep division and vitriolic rhetoric around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and where the dignity of people living with disabilities or mental health issues are often ignored, demonized, or turned into a joke, we promise to:

*Welcome all people of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith expression, marital status & family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, physical ability, mental or emotional condition, economic and social status, and educational background to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church family.*

**The Rainbow Flag:** We proudly display a rainbow flag at the front of our sanctuary as a visual declaration of God's extravagant and inclusive love, as well as of our own "promise of welcome" to all people. Our prayer is that all can be their truest selves here. This flag serves as a particular signal that our church is a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ persons to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

# **Order of Worship | March 3, 2024**

*All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.*

*We invite you to like the video and/or say “Hi!” in the comments to let us know you’re here!  
We also encourage you to create a “sacred space” wherever you are this morning as you worship with us: perhaps light a candle or incense, sit in/near the sun streaming through a window, or a favorite plant. Whatever helps ground you.*

## **Prelude**

“Lamb of God”

*Twila Paris/arr. L. Larson*

## **Gathering For Worship**

**Welcome**

**Passing the Peace**

**Gathering Song** “Bless Now, O God, the Journey” (p.2)

## **Centering Our Hearts**

**Prayers of the People**

**Silent Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father** who art heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Choir Anthem**

“A Communion Invitation”

*P. Martin/C. Courtney*

## **Scripture**

[Psalm 19; Matthew 16:13-20](#)

## **Sermon**

“But Who Do You Say That I Am?”

## **Sung Response**

“God of Many Faces” vv. 1-3 (p.3)

## **Responding to God’s Invitation: Prayer Stations** (see insert)

## **Preparing to Live God’s Love**

**Our Shared Life**

**Sending Song**

“Here at the Peak” (p.4)

**Benediction**

## **Postlude**

“Gethsemane”

*K. Getty/arr. Larson*

*Thank you for worshiping with us this morning!*

# “Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

Sylvia G Dunstan

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.  
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,  
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

† † †

## WORSHIP NOTES

*Serving us this morning are:*

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Music Director:** Gary Mattin  
**Children's Church Coordinator:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe | **Liturgist:** Pam Kitterman  
**Ushers:** Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer  
*Ushers for Sunday, March 10: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer*

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## "God of Many Faces"

Amy Cerniglia



God of man - y fa - ces, we of - fer our praise,  
God of man - y gen - ders, our world re - flects you,  
God of man - y names, we in - vite you to show ours,  
God of man - y bod - ies, a - bid with - in ours,  
sing - ing your glo - ry through all of our days.  
sun - rise and sun - set u - ni - ting our hues,  
us the new names that re - flect our true souls.  
shift - ing more each day through time and through scars.  
Hear ev - er grow - ing voi - ces, once fra - gile, now strong,  
wo - ven in - to a ci - ty with jewels of all shades,  
Breathe with your ho - ly spir - it to give us the Word,  
Come sanc - ti - fy our bod - ies, all fash - ioned by you,  
car - ry - ing mel - o - dies in ex - pan - sive new songs.  
hou - ses of ru - by and walls rowed with jade.  
that will in - dwell dry bones, grant - ing new life once heard.  
ho - li - er ev - ery - day, still be - com - ing more true.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Volunteer Opportunity

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation in DeKalb is looking for **volunteers to make dinner for the 8-10 people** experiencing houselessness and using their overnight warming shelter through the winter. The shelter will stay open until March 21<sup>st</sup>.

*If you're interested, contact Pastor Eric; he will get folks connected so they can plan together, and also answer questions / get more info as needed.*

**Lenten Spiritual Formation Small Group** | Sundays, Feb 18-Mar 17, 4:45-6pm

**Reading for this Sunday:** "Lament" (pp.84-95); "Rage" (pp.106-116); "Lent III: Grief" (pp. 252-253). See this week's news for a few tips/suggestions for readings.

*Additional announcements on page 4.*

## "Here at the Peak"

Ana Strickland

Here at the peak I clearly see All of the pieces  
 Here I proclaim the truths I know Be - yond the know - ledge  
 Here my Cre - a - tor stands en - fleshed In - fi - nite glo - ry  
 Here at the peak you clear - ly name Who you cre - a - ted

6

you've laid out And in this brief though time - less  
 of this world Truths plan - ted deep with - in my  
 here con - tained Hum - ble and rug - ged, sim - ply  
 me to be I den - ti - fied not by my

11

peace bones Such clar - i - ty oc - cludes my doubts  
 dressed Brought to the light as gold un - earthed  
 shame Sa - vior of all on earth to reign  
 But by the gifts you gave to me

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Lenten Love Offering | Spartan Food Pantry & One Great Hour of Sharing

During Lent, our Love Offering includes two invitations:

- 1) To increase food and personal hygiene donations to the Spartan Food Pantry, which has specifically requested **shampoo & conditioner**. Bring donations to worship; during the Prayer Stations, bring them forward to the "Table of Offering" at the front.
- 2) Monetary donations to support the UCC's "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering, which pools our donations with churches around the country to support disaster relief, refugee resettlement, and development initiatives around the world. See the OGHS flyer in bulletin for an example. For donations: place in an envelope in the "Offering Plate;" mail to church; or give online (find link in the eNews). For checks, note "OGHS" in the memo.

### Weekly Enews

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to see the most recent Enews with all these announcements and more! Subscribe tab is at the top.



# OUR FEDERATED VALUES

## **We believe in God**

At the center of our faith is the surprising, unsettling, and deeply personal God found in the Bible, most profoundly revealed in the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus. At Federated, our primary interest is not merely talking *about* God, but in *encountering* the Mysterious Force at the heart of the universe. This is a God who comforts us where we need to be comforted and challenges us where we've become complacent. This is a God who will not be confined to dogmatic teachings, nor even to the Bible. We believe that we are invited to encounter this God everywhere: in nature, science, one another, and in other religious traditions as well.

## **We believe each person is on a unique spiritual journey**

We value faith as a journey rather than a destination. We recognize that each person is at a different place on their journey, so we focus on “testimonies” of faith rather than “tests” of faith; stories of how we are being transformed, rather than dogmas we must affirm. Here, you are welcome to belong, question, explore, and lead whether you grew up in church and loved it, or you've had a painful relationship with Christianity; you are welcome whether you feel your faith is unshakeable or you're not sure if you believe in God at all. You are welcome to join a community of people “on the way”: encouraging and caring for one another, learning and growing together, and serving alongside each other as we build, in some small way, the world we believe God dreams of.

## **We believe in building authentic community across our differences**

We are an “Open and Affirming” congregation, which is our way of saying that we value diversity. In a time of deep division, we believe it is paramount to gather people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that the simple but courageous work of showing up and being together in this way is one necessary element in healing our nation and world's deep divisions.

## **We believe in working for peace through justice**

In this congregation, conversations regarding racism, sexism, poverty, war, immigration, homophobia, hunger, abuse, and a host of other issues are commonplace, both from the pulpit and around the table. We know that the Realm of God is not being experienced on earth so long as people are being hurt. With Martin Luther King Jr., we believe that we are all “caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny,” and that “none of us can be free until all are free.” Which means that, as a community, we have a God-given responsibility and mission to work for justice and healing in our neighborhood and beyond. Jesus says: “I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). This work is defined not merely by what we are against, but the vision we are for—flourishing for *all*!

# ***“Welcoming Any, Loving All”***

*The Federated Church is affiliated with two national denominations:  
the United Church of Christ & the Unitarian Universalist Association*



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